

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1530**

**Asked on Thursday, 1 September 2016**

**MR DICKSON** asked the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (HON M BAILEY) —

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Minister outline what plans, if any, the Palaszczuk Government has to minimise serious traffic crashes on the east/west section of the Sunshine Motorway between Karawatha Drive, Mountain Creek and Nicklin Way, Kawana?

### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Buderim for the question.

There has been a number of traffic crashes in this area in recent years. In fact, I am advised that approximately two-thirds of all crashes that occur on this section of the motorway are nose-to-tail crashes during peak periods.

To help motorists better respond to changing road conditions such as traffic congestion, incidents or bad weather, I am pleased to announce that the Variable Speed Limit (VSL) signs on the Sunshine Motorway eastbound traffic lanes are being turned on today to begin pre-commissioning testing. During this time, the signs will display the default speed limit of 100km/h to allow the operation of the system to be assessed. This testing is expected to take approximately one week, and after this, if no refinements are detected, the signs are expected to begin full operations.

This \$2.4 million Safer Roads Sooner project will aim to improve safety and reduce the crash risk on the Sunshine Motorway by adjusting the speed limit to suit the road conditions. Ultimately, this will encourage motorists to drive at speeds appropriate to the conditions. Traffic Management Centre operators will monitor live traffic conditions using CCTV cameras and in-pavement vehicle detectors, and making changes to the speed limit as needed. For example, the signs will be used if congestion is beginning to occur during the morning and afternoon peak periods. If congestion is imminent, operators will reduce the displayed speed limit to 80km/h. If congestion persists, and vehicle speeds drop below 80km/h, the signs may be reduced further to display 60km/h. The speed limit will be reduced in 20km/h increments on successive signs to slow vehicles down safely in advance of the congestion or incident.

The signs will work hand in hand with a new electronic Variable Message Signs (VMS) that will be installed east of the Stringybark Road overpass in early 2017. Combining Intelligent Transport System technologies like VMS and Variable Speed Limit signs means that my department will have the ability to provide advanced messages to motorists and vary the speed limit to suit the conditions.